

From all that has been said it will be apparent that the child's relation to his two parents at any phase of his development is very complicated. The broad pattern, whether for boy or girl, is laid down by hetero-sexual preferences.

As a normal and major phase in development, the boy seeks his mother as his primary sexual object and feels his father to be a rival for her love, whilst at the same time wishing to be like the father in his power and potency—that is to say, identifying himself with his father. Similarly, the girl normally takes her father for her primary sexual object. Her wishes are towards him, and her mother is primarily a rival for the father's love, although she identifies herself with her mother and wishes to be like her in receiving the father's love and gift of children.

This broad, simple statement has, however, to be qualified in many details according to the age of the child and individual modes of dealing with the anxieties arising from this nuclear situation. Into those detailed phases, and the differences of development in boys and girls, I cannot enter, since they constitute a highly technical problem, and one that lies outside the main scope of this book, save in so far as particular aspects of it are illustrated in the actual data brought together. (I shall, for instance, draw attention to one special aspect, viz. the boy's feminine attitude towards his father at a certain phase of growth, because there happens to be clear illustrative material in the school data. And Ursula exemplifies in some of her behaviour a corresponding phase, when she tries to solve the problem of her rivalry with her mother by identifying herself with her father—a not uncommon solution

among women to-day.)

Since the major problem of this book is the broad relation between the sexual and the social aspects of development, rather than the details of sexual development itself, I must leave readers who are further interested in the latter question to pursue it in the technical literature referred to in my bibliography.

I must now briefly survey some of the more important and general of the various psychological mechanisms by which the child attempts to control his impulses and allay anxiety.